

Making Videos on the Web

A Guide for Teachers

How you and your students can create videos without purchasing any software or video equipment.

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FreeTech4Teachers.com



Creating videos for a classroom project used to require a lot of money for equipment and software. Thanks to the Internet, those days are gone. Now anyone with access to the Web and a modern web browser can create a high-quality video project.



Copyright and Creative Commons.

A short run-down of the meanings and purposes of Public Domain, Creative Commons, and Fair-use.
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Create Your Own Audio Tracks

Learn to use a free web-based audio track recording and mixing tool.

Pages 8-10

Animated Videos

Fun and free services for creating short animated videos.

Page 22

Screencasting

Use these services to create demonstration videos on your computer. Useful for teachers and students.

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Finding Images and Audio for Video Projects.

Use these resources to locate images and sounds that you and your students can use in video projects.
Pages 3-7

Documentary Video

In this section we'll look at some free services for creating documentary-style slideshow-based videos.
Pages 11-21

Full-length Videos

In this section we'll look at using a free web-based video editing service that you and your students can use to produce full-length videos.
Pages 23-25

Sharing Videos

Try these alternatives to YouTube for sharing your students' works.
Page 27

About this Guide

This guide was created for teachers and students who would like to create video projects, but lack access to video equipment and or video editing software.

A Few Words About Copyright, Creative Commons, and Fair-use.



In the following pages we will look at some video creation tools that require users to mix and remix images, audio recordings, and video recordings. Some teachers get nervous that their students might be violating copyright laws by remixing content. This section is intended to lend some clarity to the murky issues of Copyright.

Disclaimer: I am not a lawyer or legal scholar, this is simply my understanding of these issues based upon my own research. Under no circumstances should the following be considered expert legal advice. Also bear in mind I'm writing from a US perspective, laws may differ in your country.

Student created works: The best way to ensure that students do not violate Copyright is to have them use images and audio recordings they've created from scratch.

Public Domain works: Images, sounds, and videos that are in the Public Domain can legally be reused by students without attribution. In the following pages we'll look at how to find Public Domain works.

Creative Commons works: Increasingly, authors and producers are choosing to label their works with Creative Commons licenses. These licenses allow people to reuse an author's work under certain conditions. In general attribution is required. Consult <http://creativecommons.org/> for clarification on the requirements of each license. In the following pages we'll look at how to find Creative Commons licensed works.

Fair-use in Education: Copyright is designed to protect the authors (producers) of creative works from loss of revenue as the result of their work(s) being reused without compensation. This is why I cannot make 100 photocopies of The Davinci Code for my students to read in class. By making those photocopies I'm depriving the author and publisher of the revenue from 100 books. I could, however, make photocopies of one paragraph to give to my students to use as the focal point of lesson on writing. When it comes to videos, images, and audio recordings, the same concept applies. If your students are not detracting from someone's earning potential and are re-using the works in a manner that can be considered to be creating a new product, they can probably reuse the works.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/dMoV> <http://www.eff.org/> <http://bit.ly/ig7UG> <http://bit.ly/5Qk8zi>

Finding Public Domain and Creative Commons Images

Use these resources to find images that you and your students can use without violating anyone's copyright.



Google Image Advanced Search

If your students are like most, Google is the first place they'll go when they need to find something on the web. If they simply search [Google Images](#), they're likely to get results containing a lot of Copyrighted materials. Teach them to use the advanced settings to refine their results.



Yahoo Image Advanced Search

[Yahoo](#) continues to be one of the world's most popular search engines. As with Google, if students aren't using the advanced settings, they're likely to get results containing a lot of Copyrighted materials. Yahoo has a filter specifically for finding Creative Commons images.



Flickr Advanced Search

[Flickr](#) is a hugely popular photo sharing website. It can be a good source of images, but not everyone labels their images for reuse. Use the advanced settings to find images labeled for reuse.



The [Morgue File](#) photo collection contains thousands of images that anyone can use for free in academic or commercial presentations. The image collection can be searched by subject category, image size, color, or rating.

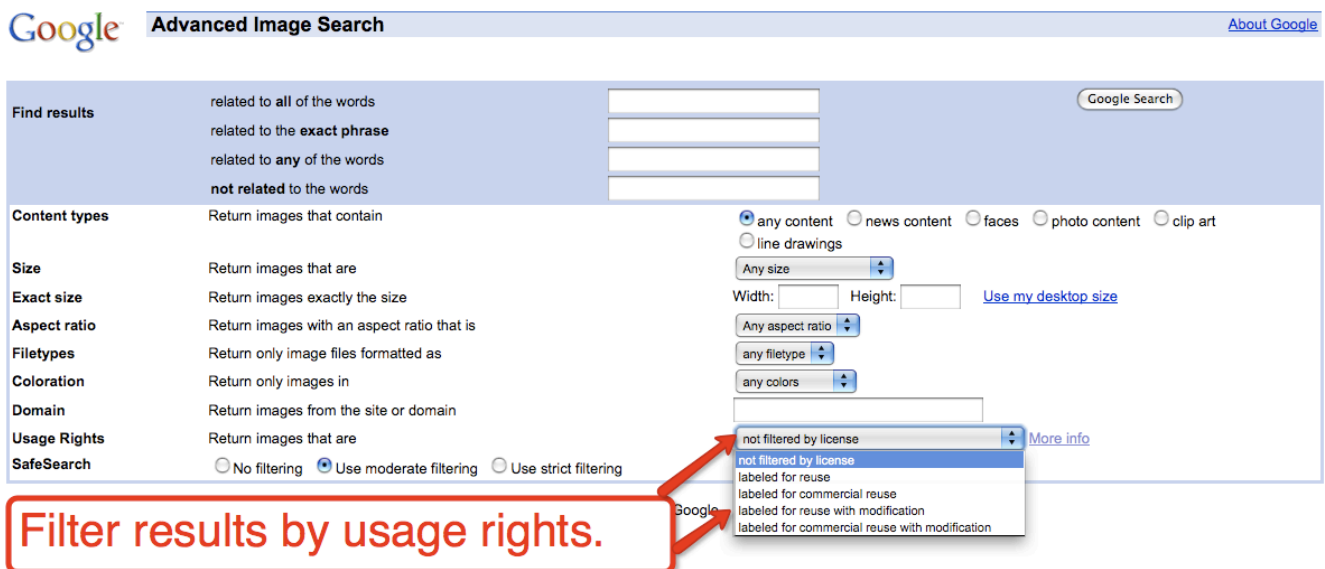


The [Wikimedia Commons](#) is packed with images and other works that are labeled for reuse. Check the licensing statement for each image before reusing. Some images require attribution while others are in the public domain and do not require attribution.



[Compfight](#) allows you to search Flickr for Creative Commons licensed images that you can use in documents and digital presentations. Compfight gives you the choice of searching by keyword or by Flickr tag word.

Accessing Google Images Advanced Search



Accessing Yahoo Images Advanced Search

YAHOO! Web Images Video Local Shopping News More

oil spill Search Options

SafeSearch: ON Show only: ☐ Wallpaper ☐ Black & White [More Filters](#)

Also try: [oil spill animals](#), [exxon valdez oil spill](#) [More...](#)

Oil Spill - Recent Images

1 hour ago train for Oil Spill recovery news.yahoo.com

1 hour ago looming Oil Spill from the... news.yahoo.com

1 hour ago looming Oil Spill from the... news.yahoo.com

1 hour ago looming Oil Spill from the... news.yahoo.com

2 hours ago looming Oil Spill from the... news.yahoo.com

Advanced Search is under "options" menu.

1-20 of 107,116 for oil spill

SPONSOR RESULTS

[Oil Spill Containment](#)

...s of oil spill & containment solutions. [www.business.com](#)

[Free Stock Photos](#)

Create a free account and download Pictures Of Oil Spills for free. [dreamstime.com](#)

[Major Oil Spill](#)

Stay Safe on the Job Learn More About Safety Equipment [spills.worksafety.com](#)

[Breaking News on Gulf Oil Spill](#)

How Close it is to Beaches and Land? How Much is Leaking? for

Tip: Use these options to look for an exact phrase or to exclude pages containing certain words.

Size

☐ Wallpaper ☐ Small

☐ Large ☐ Custom

☐ Medium

Color

☐ Black & White

☐ Color

Site/Domain

☒ Any domain

☐ Only from flickr.com ☐ Only .com domains

☐ Only .edu domains ☐ Only .gov domains ☐ Only .org domains

☐ only search in this domain/site:

Tip: You can search for results in a specific website (e.g., yahoo.com) or top-level domains (e.g., .com, .org, .gov).

Creative Commons License

☐ Creator allows reuse* - Search only in Creative Commons Licensed content

Specifically allows for:

☐ Commercial use

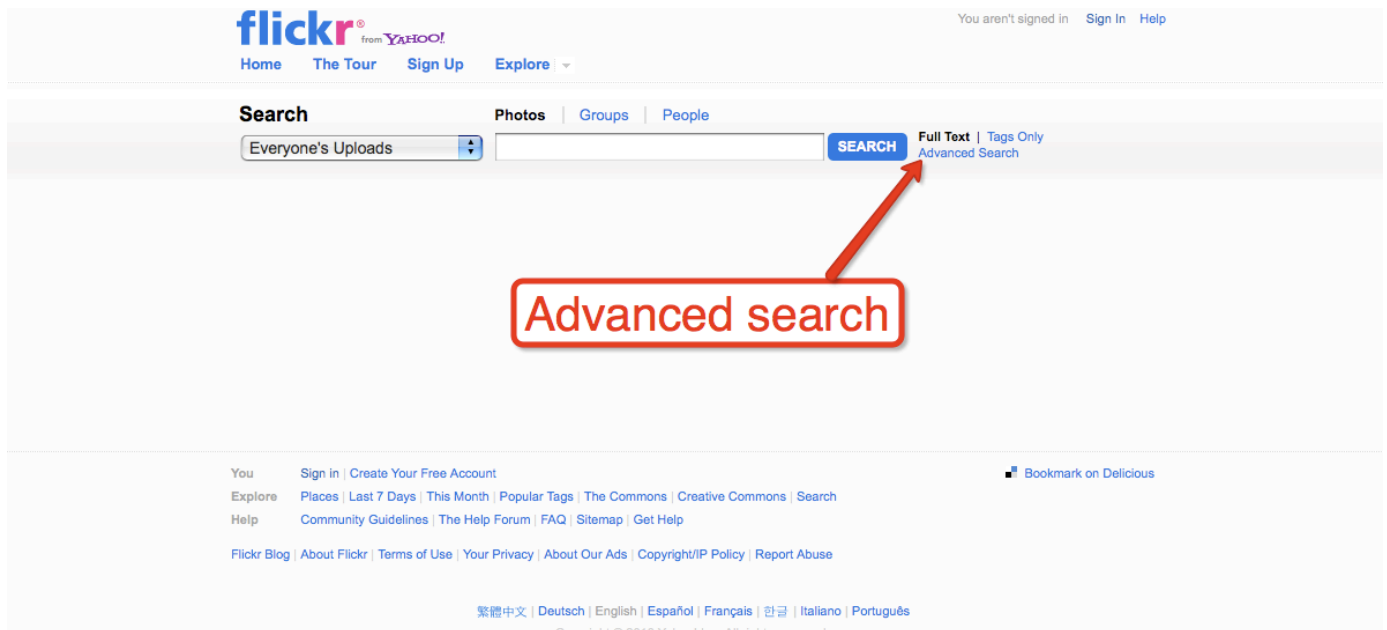
☐ Remix, tweak, build upon

* With restrictions. [Learn more](#)

Note: Only Flickr images are supported currently in this Filter.

Select Creative Commons licensing. Also filter by source.

Accessing Flickr Advanced Image Search



flickr® from YAHOO!

You aren't signed in [Sign In](#) [Help](#)

[Home](#) [The Tour](#) [Sign Up](#) [Explore](#) ▾

Search [Photos](#) [Groups](#) [People](#)

Everyone's Uploads [SEARCH](#) [Full Text](#) [Tags Only](#) [Advanced Search](#)

Advanced search

You [Sign in](#) | [Create Your Free Account](#)

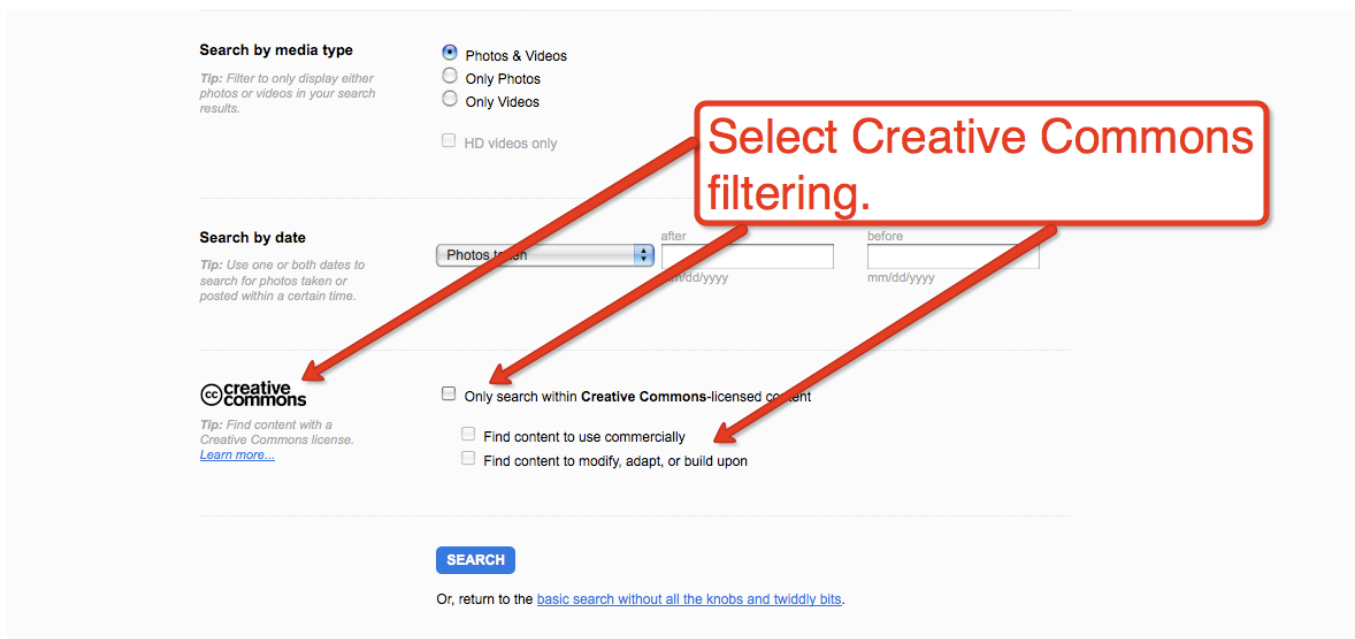
Explore [Places](#) | [Last 7 Days](#) | [This Month](#) | [Popular Tags](#) | [The Commons](#) | [Creative Commons](#) | [Search](#)

Help [Community Guidelines](#) | [The Help Forum](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Get Help](#)

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Search by media type

Tip: Filter to only display either photos or videos in your search results.

☒ Photos & Videos
☐ Only Photos
☐ Only Videos
☐ HD videos only

Search by date

Tip: Use one or both dates to search for photos taken or posted within a certain time.

Photos taken after before
 mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy

creative commons

Tip: Find content with a Creative Commons license. [Learn more...](#)

☐ Only search within Creative Commons-licensed content
☐ Find content to use commercially
☐ Find content to modify, adapt, or build upon

[SEARCH](#)

Or, return to the [basic search without all the knobs and twiddly bits.](#)

Music and Sounds for Videos

These resources provide public domain and Creative Commons licensed music and sounds your students can use in their video projects.



PodSafe Audio provides music tracks for use in podcasts, videos, and other multimedia projects. The content comes from a community of musicians who create music and share it for the purpose of fair-use in podcasts, videos, and other multimedia projects.



The Free Sound Project is comprised of sounds (not music) that can be reused with attribution. Just as with Pod Safe Audio, the content on The Free Sound Project comes from a community of contributors.

In order to download sounds from The Free Sound Project you do need to register for an account.



The Free Music Archive provides free, high-quality, music in a wide range of genres. The content on Free Music Archive is used under various creative commons licenses. Anyone can download music from FMA for use in podcasts and videos.



The next best thing to using music you created is to use Creative Commons licensed music or royalty free music. Royalty Free Music hosts music tracks that can be reused in numerous ways. Royalty Free Music charges the general public for their downloads, but students and teachers can download quite a bit of the music for free. To access the free music tracks students and teachers should visit the education page on Royalty Free Music.



Sound Bible is a resource for finding and downloading free sound clips, sound effects, and sound bites. All of the sounds on Sound Bible are either public domain or labeled with a Creative Commons license. You can find sounds for use in podcasts, videos, and slideshows.



Jamendo is a source of free and legal music downloads. The music on Jamendo comes from the artists who upload it themselves. While not all of the music is licensed for re-use, there is a substantial collection of music labeled with a Creative Commons license.

Aviary's Myna Sound Editor

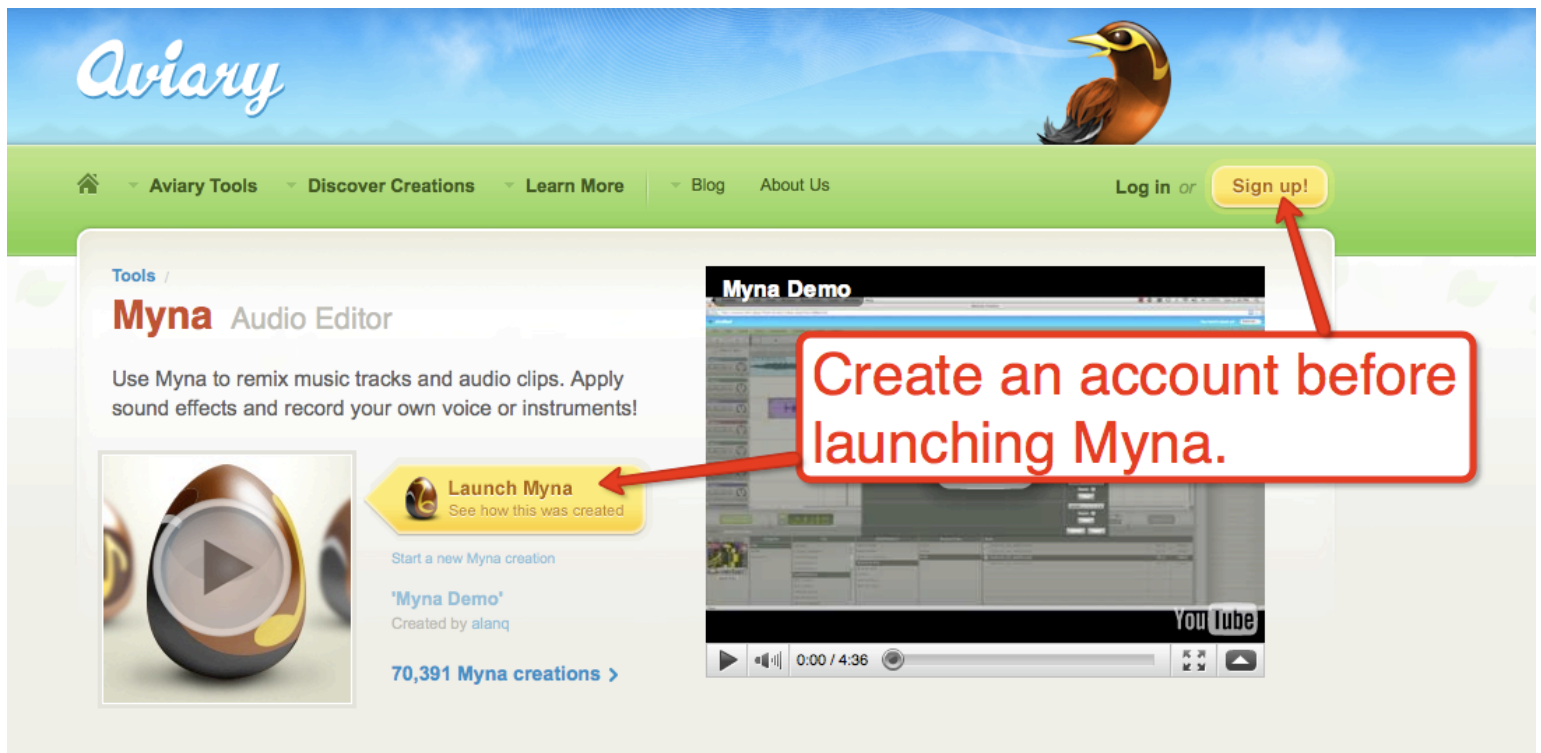
Aviary hosts a great free tool called Myna that can be used to record and mix your own sound tracks.

The Aviary logo is displayed in a white, cursive font against a light blue background.

Myna is a free web-based audio track mixer created by Aviary. Using Myna you can mix together up to ten tracks to create your own audio files. The sounds you mix can come from the Myna library, your vocal recordings made with Myna's recorder, or audio tracks that you upload to your Myna account.

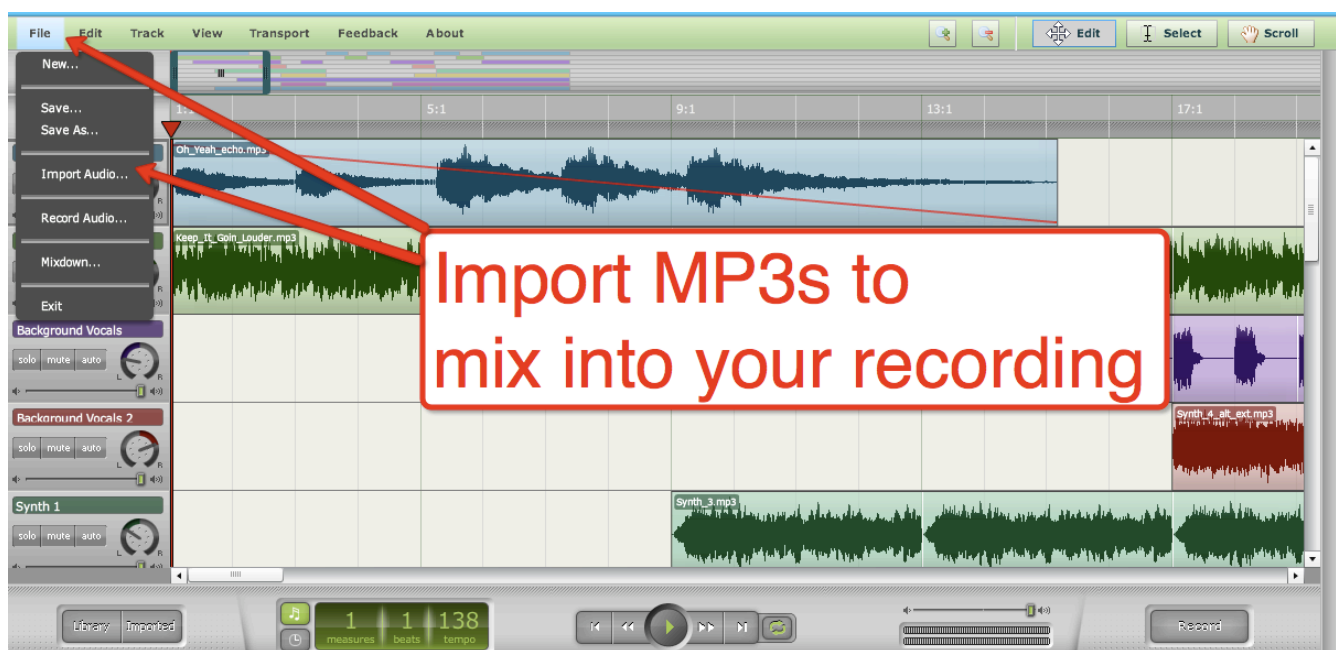
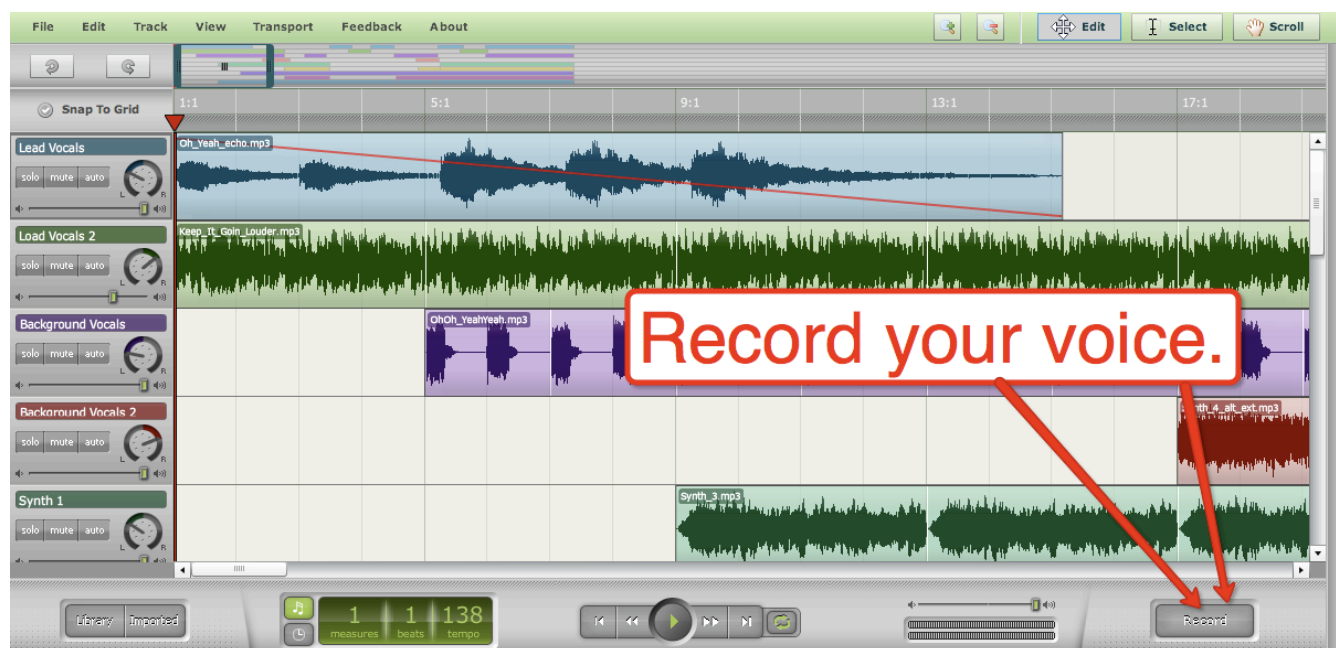
Getting Started with Aviary's Myna Sound Editor.

<http://aviary.com/tools/myna>

A screenshot of the Aviary Myna Audio Editor website. The header features the Aviary logo and a bird icon. Navigation links include 'Aviary Tools', 'Discover Creations', 'Learn More', 'Blog', and 'About Us'. A 'Log in or Sign up!' button is in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Tools / Myna Audio Editor' and describes the tool's capabilities. It includes a 'Launch Myna' button with a play icon and a 'Myna Demo' video player. A red callout box with the text 'Create an account before launching Myna.' has two arrows: one pointing to the 'Sign up!' button and another pointing to the 'Launch Myna' button. The video player shows a 'Myna Demo' with a duration of 0:00 / 4:36.

Aviary's Myna Sound Editor

Aviary hosts a great free tool called Myna that can be used to record and mix your own sound tracks.



Aviary's Myna Sound Editor

Aviary hosts a great free tool called Myna that can be used to record and mix your own sound tracks.

Click "library" to access and use Aviary's library of sounds.

| Categories | CDs | ACID ROCK GLORY | Misty Mountain | Intros | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| CDs | ACID ROCK GLORY | Misty Mountain | Intros | ▶ misty_mountain_intro01a.mp3 | 00:05 | 81bpm |
| Styles | ADVENTURES BEYOND | Holy House | Loops | ▶ misty_mountain_intro02a.mp3 | 00:05 | 81bpm |
| Keywords | ALL HIP-HOP 1 | Ramblin | Ends | ▶ misty_mountain_intro03a.mp3 | 00:05 | 81bpm |
| | ALL HIP-HOP 2 | The Fool In Me | | ▶ misty_mountain_intro04a.mp3 | 00:05 | 81bpm |
| | ALL HIP-HOP 3 | Outa Site Man | | ▶ misty_mountain_intro05a.mp3 | 00:05 | 81bpm |
| | ARSENAL | Outbound | | ▶ misty_mountain_intro06a.mp3 | 00:02 | 81bpm |
| | CLASSIC TRIUMPH | Groovy Dude | | ▶ misty_mountain_intro07a.mp3 | 00:00 | 81bpm |
| | DRAMA DRONES | South Bound | | | | |
| | ELEKTRONIKA 1 | Feelin No Pain | | | | |
| | ELEKTRONIKA 2 | | | | | |
| | ELEKTRONIKA 3 | | | | | |

Beyond Slideshows

These free tools are great for creating mini-documentary videos. At their cores these tools take the slideshow concept and mix-in audio and video elements.



Animoto

[Animoto](#) makes it possible to quickly create a video using still images, music, video clips, and text. If you can make a slideshow presentation, you can make a video using Animoto.

Animoto provides a large library of free music and free images that you can use in your videos. Animoto also provides a nice selection of video player themes for different occasions. For example, you can make a video birthday card using Animoto.

Animoto videos are easily embedded into blogs, wikis, and websites.

Animoto's free service limits you to 30 second videos. You can create longer videos for free if you apply for an education account. Education accounts also allow to manage student accounts.



Masher

[Masher](#) is a great, free, tool for creating video mash-ups. Masher offers a large collection of video clips from the BBC's Motion Gallery and Rip Curl video. There is a large music library, an effects library, and a good selection of video player skins. If you don't find content that you like in Masher's library, you can add your own images, video clips, and music clips through the Masher uploader. Masher also gives you the option to insert text throughout your videos.

Creating with Masher is a simple matter of dragging elements from the media gallery into the timeline editor. From there you can arrange the sequence of elements using the drag and drop interface. When you're happy with the sequence, publish and share your production.



Photo Peach

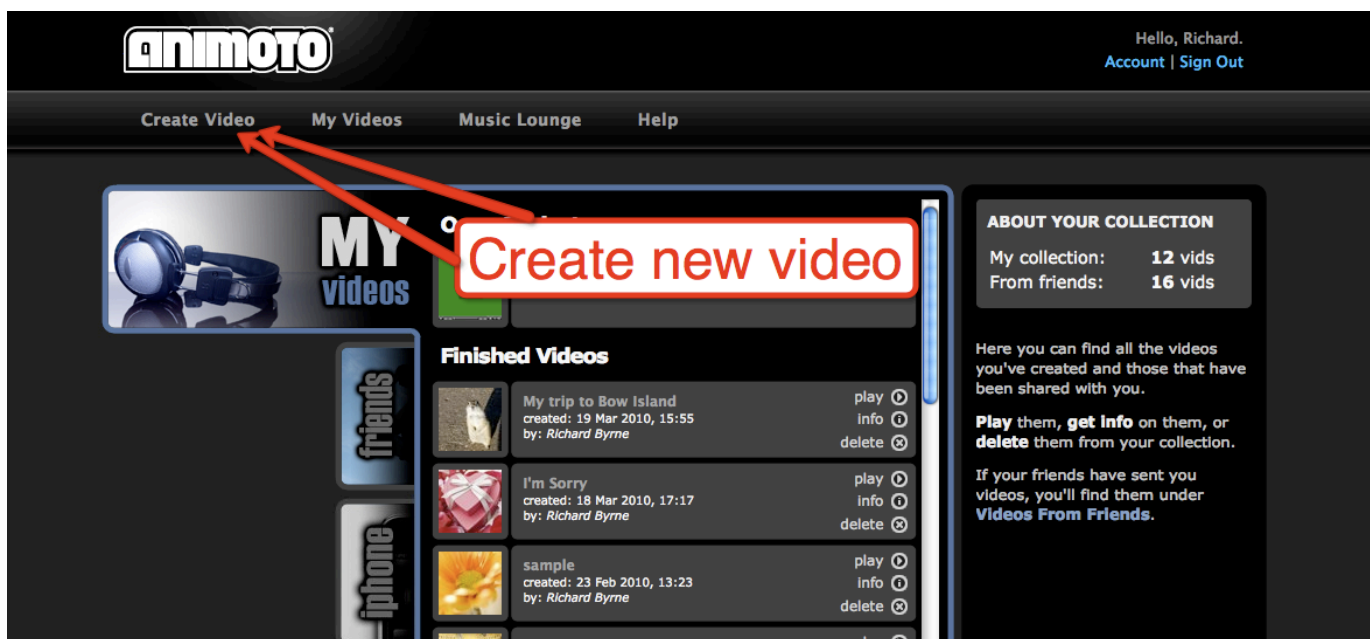
[Photo Peach](#) is a free service that allows you to quickly and easily create an audio slideshow, with captions, from images in your Flickr, Picassa, or Facebook account. You can also use images saved on your local hard drive to create your slideshow.

Adding captions to each image is a an intuitive process on Photo Peach. To add captions to your Photo Peach slideshow simply type your desired text into the caption box that appears as each image is automatically displayed by Photo Peach. Changing the order of appearance for each image is also very easy. Changing the sequence of images is a simple drag and drop procedure.

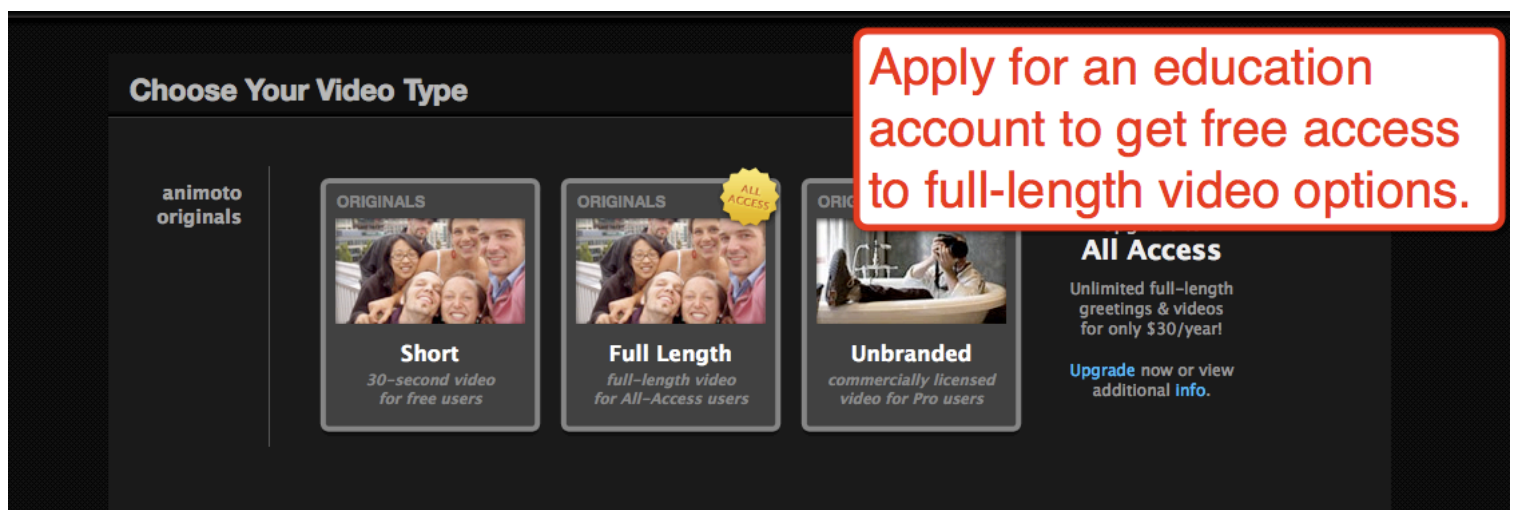
How to Make an Animoto Video

Follow these steps to create your own Animoto video. Instructions are provided at the end for embedding your video into Edublogs, Blogger, and Wikispaces.

Step 1: Login and select create new video.



Step 2: Select duration of video. If you do not have an education account you will be limited to 30 seconds.



How to Make an Animoto Video

Follow these steps to create your own Animoto video. Instructions are provided at the end for embedding your video into Edublogs, Blogger, and Wikispaces.

Step 3: Upload images or select images from Animoto's collection.

1. let's get your IMAGERY

Step 1: pics & vids
Load up your video with images and video clips. You'll have a chance to add more later.

upload
from your computer

select
from our collection

retrieve
from another site

Having trouble uploading? Try our [simple uploader](#) instead.

ABOUT YOUR VIDEO

Visual count: 0
Soundtrack: (none yet)

The number of Images you use, as well as the length and tempo of your soundtrack, will determine the speed of your Images.

A few pointers:

- A 30-second video uses 8-15 elements (text, images, video), depending on the song.
- Use 3-5s video clip highlights for maximum effect.

If uploading, it's a good idea to have a classroom discussion about Creative Commons and Copyright.

1. let's get your IMAGERY

Choose a collection
Choose one of our collections and a genre, then hold command to select more than one item at a time.

images

video clips

3. final

DIRECTIONS

Select the Images or video clips you want to use in your video.

You can select more than one by holding ctrl or command. To see a preview of any Image or video, click its thumbnail.

Once you've made your selections, press **done** to proceed to the workspace.

Want other images or video clips for your Animoto video? Millions to choose from at [Istockphoto.com](#) and [gettyimages.com](#).

Select images and videos from the Animoto collection.

How to Make an Animoto Video

Follow these steps to create your own Animoto video. Instructions are provided at the end for embedding your video into Edublogs, Blogger, and Wikispaces.

Step 3a: Selecting multiple images from Animoto's collection.

1. let's get your IMAGERY

Hold down command key (Mac) or control key (PC) to select multiple images at once.

DIRECTIONS

Select the Images or video clips you want to use in your video.

You can select more than one by holding ctrl or command. To see a preview of any Image or video, click its thumbnail.

Once you've made your selections, press **done** to proceed to the workspace.

Want other Images or video clips for your Animoto video? Millions to choose from at istockphoto.com and gettyimages.com.

Step 4: Arrange the sequence of your images. Add text slides.

Drag and drop to arrange sequence.

Add text slides then drag and drop into sequence.

Highlight image then click delete to remove an image.

Click done to move on to audio

ABOUT YOUR VIDEO

Visual count: 7
Soundtrack: (none yet)

The number of Images you use, as well as the length and tempo of your soundtrack, will determine the speed of your Images.

This video is limited to 30 seconds. [Upgrade Now](#)

add more add text spotlight rotate duplicate delete shuffle done

How to Make an Animoto Video

Follow these steps to create your own Animoto video. Instructions are provided at the end for embedding your video into Edublogs, Blogger, and Wikispaces.

Step 5: Select music from Animoto's collection or upload your own.

Step 2: music

Our library has tons of good music to explore, or you can upload your own MP3 if you have the rights to use it.

select
from our collection

upload
your computer

DIRECTIONS

You can get your music in two ways.

Either **select** a song from our library or **upload** a song from your computer.

(We support all mp3 files).

Having trouble uploading? Try our simple uploader.

Select music or upload your own

If students are uploading music, this is a good time for a discussion about Creative Commons and Copyright.

Step 6: Select image pacing.

Customize your video.

Video length: This video is limited to 30 seconds. Some images may be skipped. Upgrade.

Image pacing: ☒ 1/2 speed ☒ 1x speed ☐ 2x speed

Video cover screen: [Three image thumbnails]

continue

DIRECTIONS

Add some details for your video, this information will be used in the end-of-video credits.

If you need to **make changes**, click on the **Images** or **music** tabs to go back.

Need white label? Grab a Pro pass.

Image pacing is not adjustable for standard free videos

How to Make an Animoto Video

Follow these steps to create your own Animoto video. Instructions are provided at the end for embedding your video into Edublogs, Blogger, and Wikispaces.

Step 7: Enter video title, description, and producer's name.

Enter Video Info.

Title

Description

Producer name

create video ✓

DIRECTIONS

Add some details for your video, this information will be used in the end-of-video credits.

If you need to **make changes**, click on the **images** or **music** tabs to go back

Need white label? Grab a Pro pass.

3. finalize your VIDEO

If using Animoto with students, remind them to remove their last names.

Step 8: After video is created, select how you want to share it. Select embed to place it in a blog or wiki.

SHARING TOOLS

1-click Remix
Remix into a new video

Edit
Edit this video project

New
Start a new video

Delete
Delete this video

Share
Send to your contacts

Embed
Put on your blog/website

Export
Send to YouTube/SmugMug

Web Quality
Only full-length and hi-res videos can be downloaded.

High Resolution
Upgrade this video for \$5 and you'll get hi-res MP4 as well as DVD-burnable ISO files.

Hi-Res Upgrade

DVD Orders
[Order a physical DVD.](#)

Select embed and copy provided code.

Unlimited full-length

Artist: Brett Dennen
Song: Ain't Gonna Lose You

Close Toolbox
Share, Edit, Remix, Etc.

Images of nature

Comments (0)

Sharing Your Animoto Videos

Follow these steps to display your Animoto videos online.

Copy embed code provided by Animoto

Embed this video CLOSE X

Put this video on your blog, website, or social network.

```
<object id="vp1JRec8" width="432" height="240" classid="clsid:d27cdb6e-ae6d-11cf-96b8-444553540000"><param name="movie" value="http://static.animoto.com/swf/w.swf?w=swf/vp1&e=1272567026&f=JRec8FEnzhBtC1Q4by8uMw&d=30&m=b&r=w&i=m&moptions="></param><param name="allowFullScreen" value="true"></param><param name="allowscriptaccess" value="always"></param><embed id="vp1JRec8" src="http://static.animoto.com/swf/w.swf?w=swf/vp1&e=1272567026&f=JRec8FEnzhBtC1Q4by8uMw&d=30&m=b&r=w&i=m&moptions="></embed></object>
```

Copied Paste this code wherever your site or blog accepts HTML.

► **Advanced Options**

If you're having trouble, check our [help resources](#) for answers to common problems.

Copy the embed code.

In Blogger, simply paste embed code into your post html editor then post.

Posting **Settings** **Layout** **Monetize** **View Blog**

New Post [Edit Posts](#) [Edit Pages](#) [Comment Moderation](#)

Title:

Link: Use this to make your title link to a website. [Learn more](#)

[Add enclosure link](#)

b [Edit HTML](#) [Compose](#) [Preview](#)

```
<object id="vp1JRec8" width="432" height="240" classid="clsid:d27cdb6e-ae6d-11cf-96b8-444553540000"><param name="movie" value="http://static.animoto.com/swf/w.swf?w=swf/vp1&e=1272567026&f=JRec8FEnzhBtC1Q4by8uMw&d=30&m=b&r=w&i=m&moptions="></param><param name="allowFullScreen" value="true"></param><param name="allowscriptaccess" value="always"></param><embed id="vp1JRec8" src="http://static.animoto.com/swf/w.swf?w=swf/vp1&e=1272567026&f=JRec8FEnzhBtC1Q4by8uMw&d=30&m=b&r=w&i=m&moptions=" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" allowscriptaccess="always" allowfullscreen="true" width="432" height="240"></embed></object><p>Create your own <a href="http://animoto.com">video slideshow</a> at animoto.com.</p>
```

[Post Options](#) Labels for this post: e.g. scooters, vacation, fall [Show all](#)

Paste embed code into html editor

Sharing Your Animoto Videos

Follow these steps to display your Animoto videos online.

Embed this video CLOSE X

Put this video on your blog, website, or social network.

```
<object id="vp1JRec8" width="432" height="240" classid="clsid:d27cdb6e-ae6d-11cf-96b8-444553540000"><param name="movie" value="http://static.animoto.com/swf/w.swf?w=swf/vp1&e=1272567026&f=JRec8FEnzh8tC1Q4by8uMw&d=30&m=b&r=w&i=m&options="></param><param name="allowFullScreen" value="true"></param><param name="allowscriptaccess" value="always"></param><embed id="vp1JRec8" src="http://static.animoto.com/swf/w.swf?w=swf/vp1&e=1272567026&f=JRec8FEnzh8tC1Q4by8uMw&d=30&m=b&r=w&i=m&options="></embed></object>
```

Copied Paste this code wherever your site or blog accepts HTML.

► **Advanced Options**

If you're having trouble, check our [help resources](#) for answers to common problems.

Copy the embed code.

Editor

Account · Help · Sign Out · wikispaces

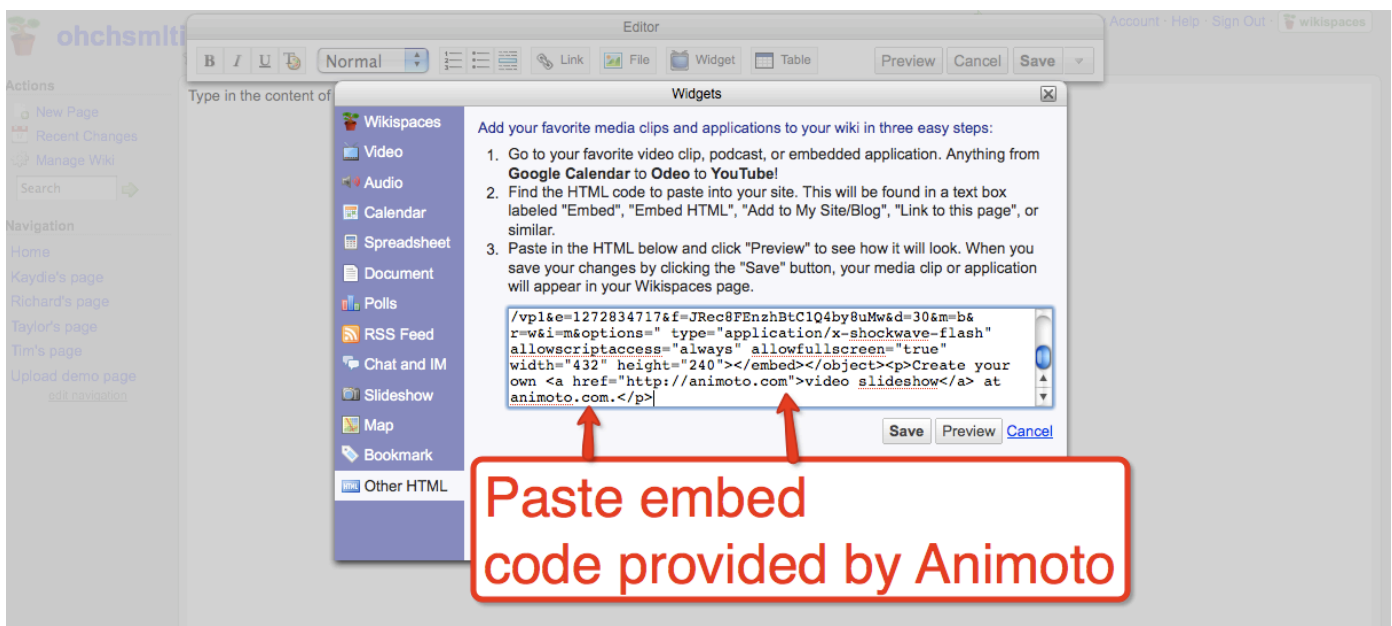
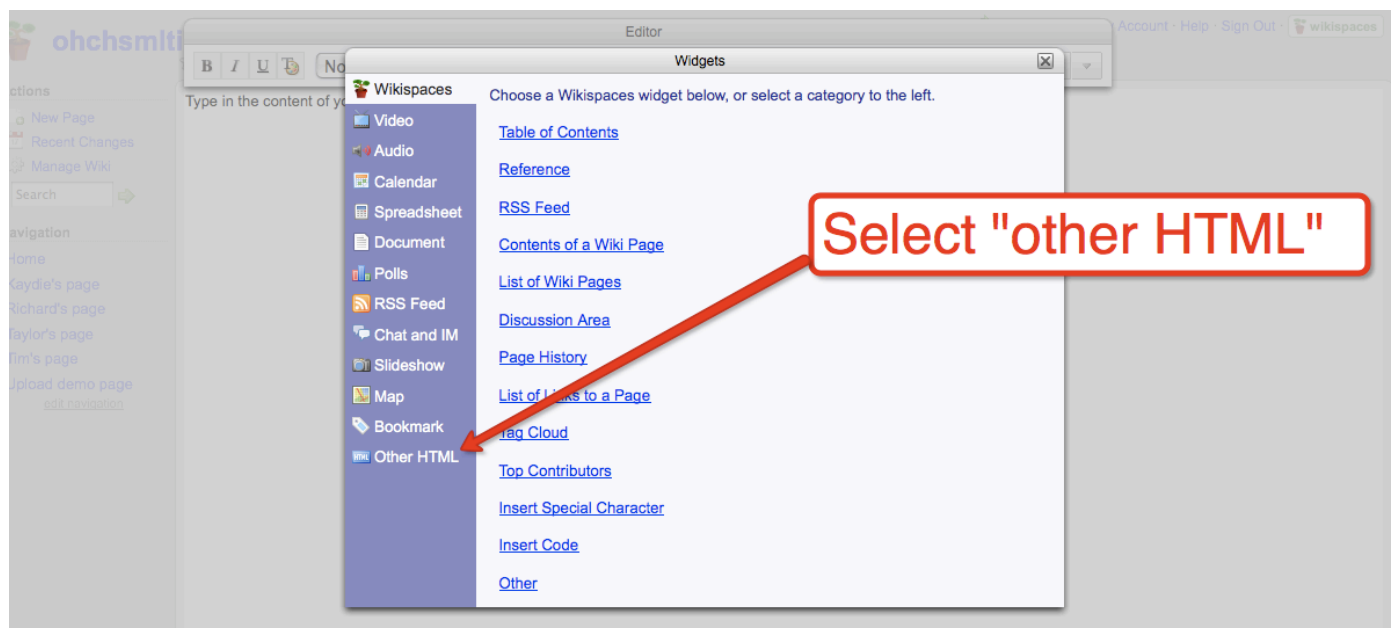
B I U Normal [dropdown] [bulleted list] [numbered list] [link] [file] **Widget** [table] Preview Cancel Save

Type in the content of your page here.

In Wikispaces select widget.

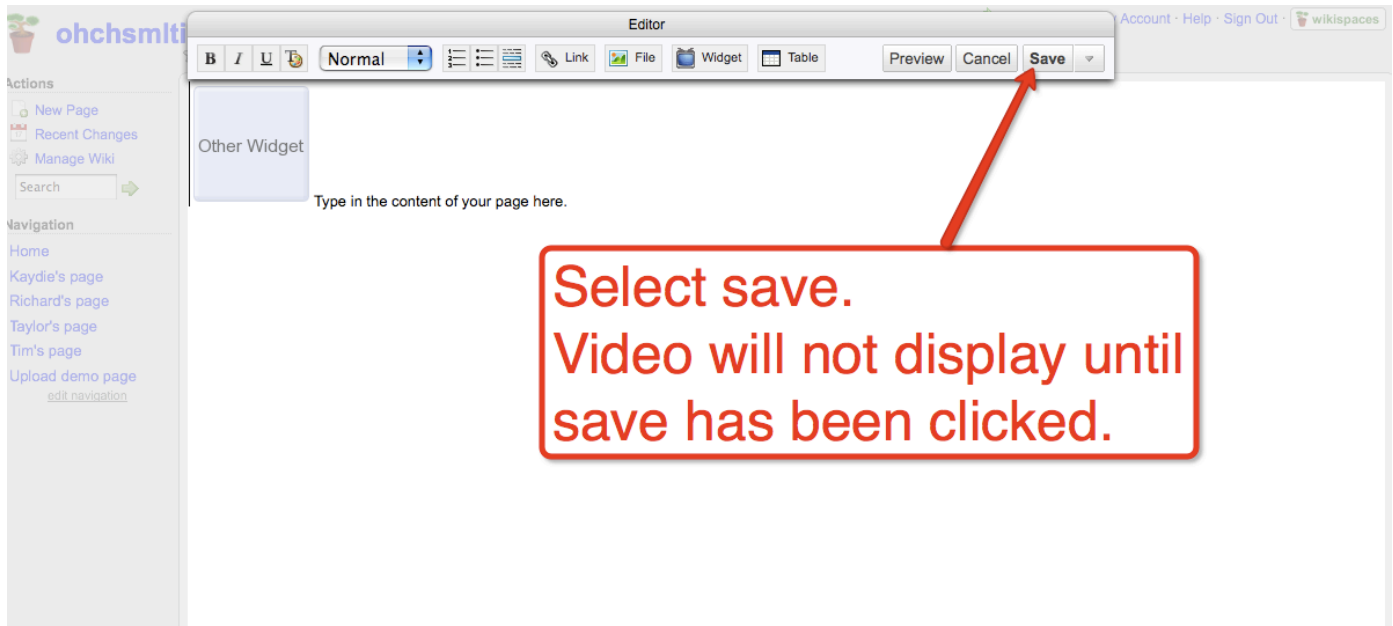
Sharing Your Animoto Videos

Follow these steps to display your Animoto videos online.



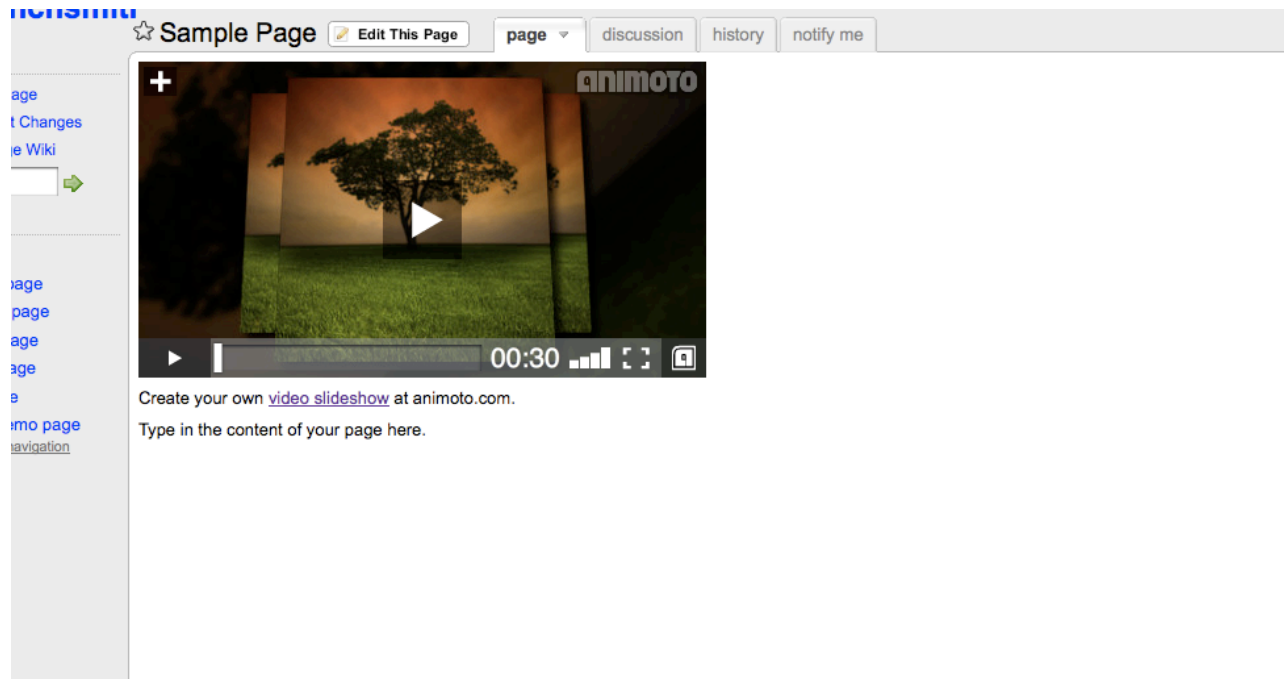
Sharing Your Animoto Videos

Follow these steps to display your Animoto videos online.



The screenshot shows the Wikispaces editor interface. On the left is a sidebar with 'Actions' (New Page, Recent Changes, Manage Wiki, Search) and 'Navigation' (Home, Kaydie's page, Richard's page, Taylor's page, Tim's page, Upload demo page, edit navigation). The main area has a toolbar with 'Normal', 'Link', 'File', 'Widget', and 'Table' buttons, along with 'Preview', 'Cancel', and 'Save' buttons. A red arrow points from a text box to the 'Save' button.

**Select save.
Video will not display until
save has been clicked.**



The screenshot shows a Wikispaces page titled 'Sample Page'. The page has a sidebar with 'Actions' (New Page, Recent Changes, Manage Wiki, Search) and 'Navigation' (Home, Kaydie's page, Richard's page, Taylor's page, Tim's page, Upload demo page, edit navigation). The main area displays an embedded Animoto video player. The video player shows a tree in a field with a play button in the center. Below the video player, there is a text box with the text 'Type in the content of your page here.'

Create your own [video slideshow](http://animoto.com) at animoto.com.

Creating Short Animated Films

Three free tools that your students can use to create simple animated movies.



Memoov

[Memoov](#) is a free service for creating animated videos. Without downloading any software or having any special skills, Memoov allows users to create animated videos up to five minutes in length. Creating an animated video with Memoov can be as simple as selecting a setting image(s), selecting a character or characters, and adding dialogue.

Memoov offers users a wide variety of options that make it stand out amongst similar services. Memoov allows users to customize the appearance of the characters in their animated videos. On the dialogue front, Memoov gives users the option to record their own voices for use in their videos. Users can also upload pre-recorded dialogue in MP3 format. Memoov users have the option to add background music to their animated videos.



Xtra Normal

[Xtra Normal](#) is a unique service that enables students to create animated, narrated movies just by typing the dialogue then dragging and dropping characters and set elements into the movies.

There are free and paid plans for using Xtra Normal. The primary difference between the plans being that the paid plan offers more options for the setting of your story. The standard plan should be more than adequate for most academic applications.



Zimmer Twins

The [Zimmer Twins](#) is a neat site for introducing elementary school students to making simple animated video stories. On the Zimmer Twins site students can create a story from scratch or complete one of the "cliff hanger" story starters.

Students do not need to have any drawing skills in order to create a story as all elements are added to the video through a simple drag and drop interface. Students select settings, characters, character actions, emotions, and text styles then drag those elements into the storyboard. Students then arrange those elements and type words into the conversation bubbles where appropriate.

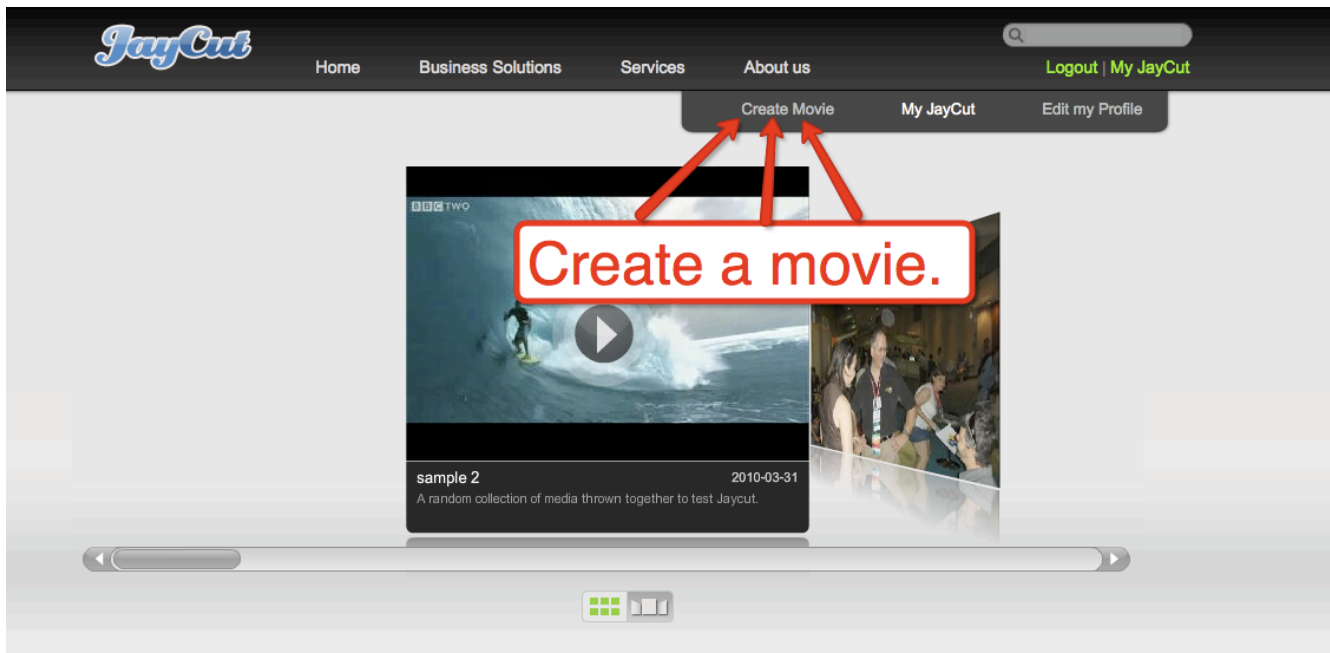
JayCut for creating full-length videos

JayCut is a web-based video creation and editing tool that will allow your students to create longer videos than any other free video creation sites.



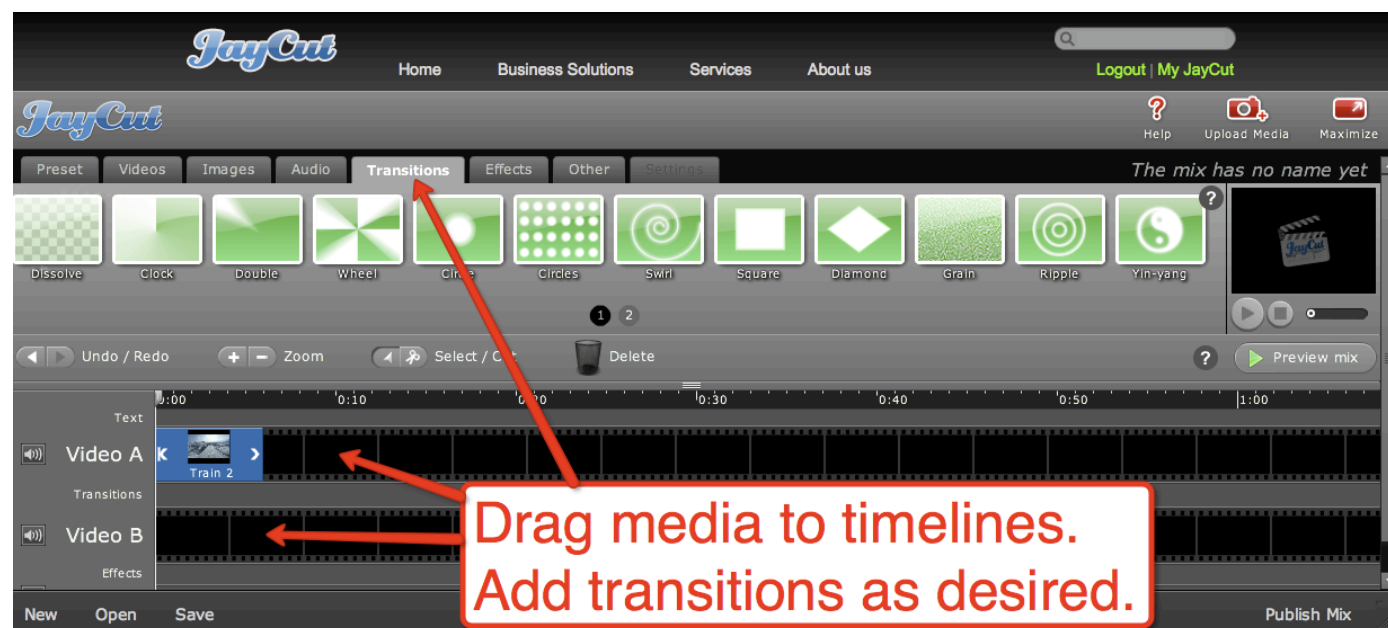
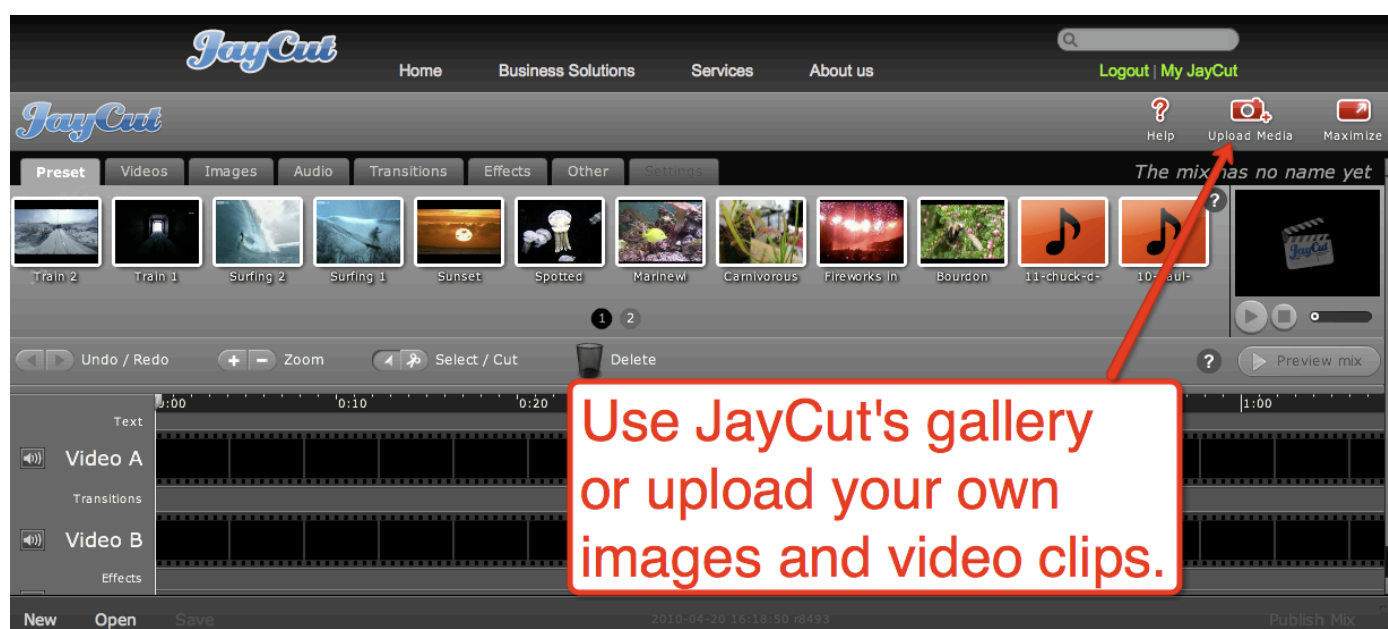
JayCut is a service still in its beta phase, but it looks very promising. Here are some of the basics of using JayCut.

After creating an account, choose Create Movie.



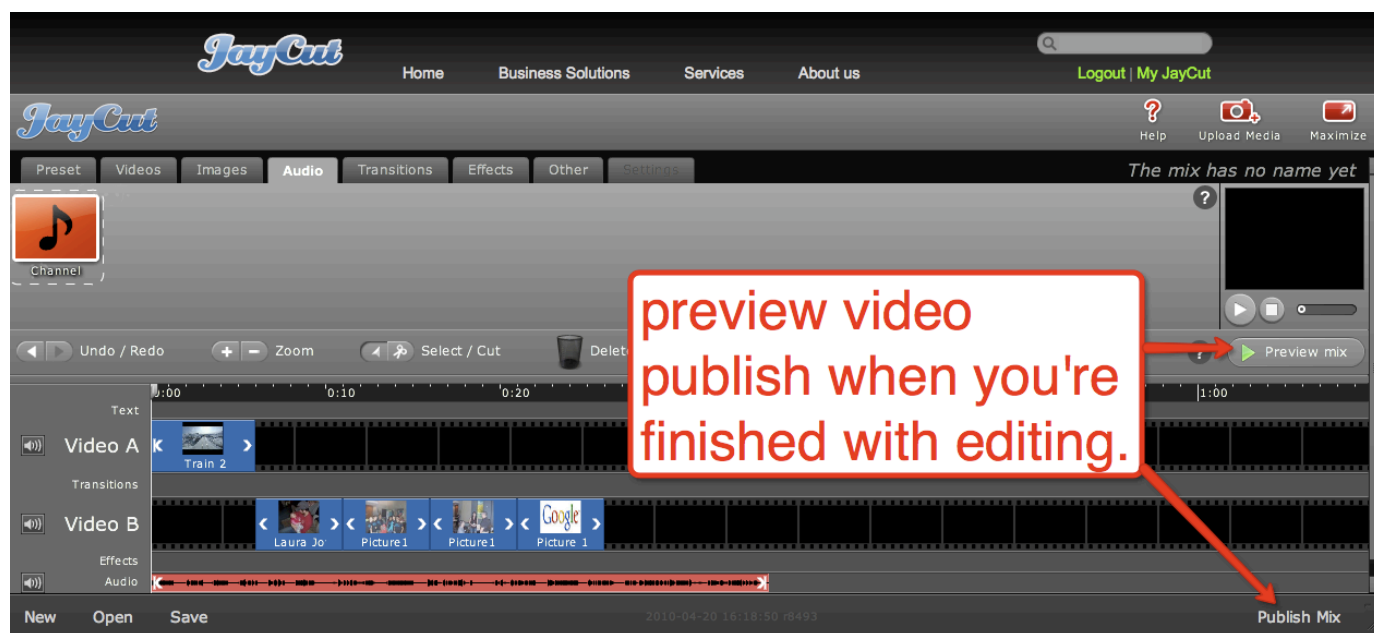
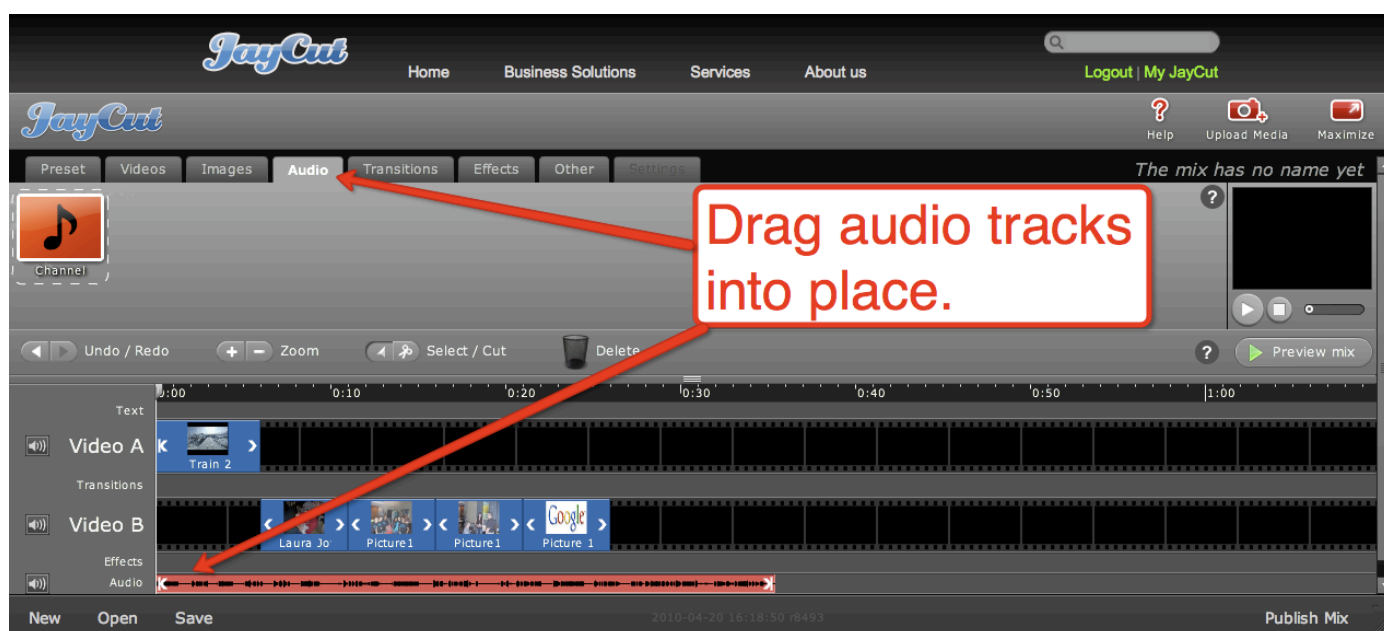
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Screencasting Tools

Use these free web-based screencasting tools to create demonstration videos. With these tools you could demonstrate software or create a recording of a slideshow with your commentary.



ScreenToaster

[ScreenToaster](http://screentoaster.com) is a completely web based application that allows you to record what is happening on your computer screen at any given time. ScreenToaster allows you to record audio to accompany your screencasts. You can also enable your webcam to record through ScreenToaster.

With ScreenToaster you can choose to record all of your screen or just a portion of your screen. When your recording is complete you can save your screencast to your computer, upload it to ScreenToaster, or upload it to YouTube.

<http://screentoaster.com>



ScreenCastle

[ScreenCastle](http://screencastle.com) is a simple screencast creation tool that is completely web-based. To use Screen Castle simply visit their website, click the start button and you're recording. You have the option to enable voice recording for your screencasts. Screencasts made using Screen Castle can be viewed on the Screen Castle website or embedded into your website, wiki, or blog.

<http://screencastle.com>



Screenr

[Screenr](http://screenr.com) is a very simple, easy-to-use tool for creating screencast videos. You do not need to register in order to use Screenr, but if you want to save your recordings you do need a Twitter account. Screenr uses your Twitter ID to save your recording and publish it to Twitter (you can opt not to publish to Twitter). The recordings you make using Screenr can also be published to YouTube or you can download your recordings.

To use Screenr simply go to the site, click the "record" link, drag a box around the area of your screen that you want to record and then press the red "record" button. Screenr will record for up to five minutes. When you're done recording, click publish and you're done.

<http://screenr.com>

Sharing Videos with a Wider Audience

YouTube is the most popular place to post videos, but many schools block YouTube. Try these alternatives for sharing the work of your students.



School Tube

SchoolTube allows teachers to create their own video channels in which they can host their students' videos.

In addition to being a place to host videos, SchoolTube offers teachers a good selection of lesson plans about video projects in the classroom. SchoolTube also offers advice about issues involving COPPA and Copyright.

For the first time user, SchoolTube has excellent directions on how to get started uploading content and creating content channels.

<http://schooltube.com>



Next Vista

Next Vista for Learning is a non-profit run by Google Certified Teacher Ruston Hurley. The purpose of Next Vista is to host and share moderated content that will help students. This is good place to share videos in which your students demonstrate how to solve mathematics problems. This is also the place for students to share videos in which they offer advice on things like applying for college or taking the SAT. Did your students complete a community service project this year? If so, Next Vista wants to hear about it in a video.

<http://nextvista.org>



Teacher Tube

TeacherTube is a very popular alternative to YouTube for schools. Just as with SchoolTube, teachers can create their own channels in which they post their students' works.

In addition to video uploads, you can also upload and share documents, images, and audio recordings.

<http://teachertube.com>

*For more information and more tutorials (including videos) please visit **FreeTech4Teachers.com** and select “Free Downloads” from the top menu.*

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About the Author

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